

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims 1, 4-5 and 7-26. Claim 18 has been amended to improve its form and claims 2-3, 28 and 30-33 have been canceled. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

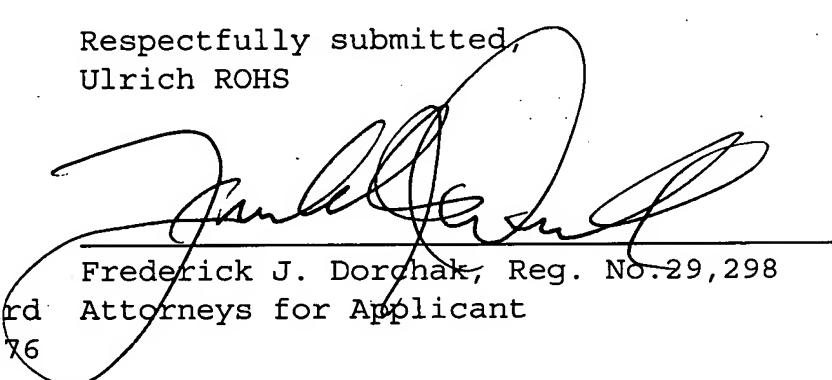
The Examiner indicated that claims 1, 4-5 and 7-26 were allowed; however, the remaining claims 2 and 3 under consideration by the Examiner were rejected on the basis of the prior art. Specifically, claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Feldhaus et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,307,710*, and claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Feldhaus et al.* in view of either *Chasseguet et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,838,395* or *Naudin et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,092,820*.

In response, without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection and in order to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicant has canceled claims 2 and 3 without prejudice along with claims 28 and 30-33, which the Examiner withdrew from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance as only claims 1, 4-5 and 7-26, which the Examiner has allowed, remain pending.

In summary, claim 18 has been amended and claims 2-3, 28 and 30-33 have been canceled. In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the final action and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ulrich ROHS



Frederick J. Dorchak, Reg. No. 29,298  
Attorneys for Applicant

COLLARD & ROE, P.C.  
1077 Northern Boulevard  
Roslyn, New York 11576  
(516) 365-9802

FJD:cmm

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Melissa Konko